

ELASTIC LEGS

If Bromley ever do win the Isthmian title then the mobile elastic legs of left-back Dave Norman will come in for their share of congratulations. Three times within the space of ten minutes Norman popped up on the goal-line to stop Wycombe shots with goalkeeper Fred Price out of touch.

But although the Bromley goal had some mystifying escapes and might well have fallen five or six times in the first half, Price and his co-defenders were helped by some surprisingly meringue-soft Wanderers shooting.

With Paul Bates playing a goal-making game and moving briskly into the open spaces inside men Cliff Trott and Ivor Ashby had plenty of chances. But there was no trace of venom in their finishing.

Although Wycombe could carve open the big Bromley defence with ease the fates were against them.

YAWNING GOAL

The first half was a chronicle of misses. Trott shot at the goal-keeper with a yawning goal in front of him from Bates' pass; Bates fired wide with an equally good chance after diddling centre-half Basham and Rockell first-timed a drive over the bar from a perfect Bates-Trott move.

To add to Rockell's anguish Norman twice chested away his goal bound efforts inches from the net in between stopping a vicious Trott shot, the product of yet another Bates inspired move.

Bromley, with a tenth of the chances, looked much more goal-minded than did Wycombe. Alan Viney slammed them into a shock 25th minute lead after being allowed a second drive at the ball, by a fatally hesitant Wycombe defence.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Bates equalised from the penalty spot in the 77th minute after Price had fouled Rockell to stop a certain goal but Bromley played with much more confidence in the second half and kept a tight hold on the home forwards.

Wycombe's Ken Brown came increasingly under fire and although he did well to push out Sheckles' 75th minute header 19-years-old Eric Nottage slammed the rebound quickly into the net.

After recent Wycombe performances this game was a sad disappointment. Apart from the epidemic of shot-shyness in the forwards the defence looked anything but composed with John Beck "out on a limb" in the unaccustomed left-half position.

WILY WYCOMBE PLOT IN VAIN

Wycombe W. 1 Bromley 2

AFTER an indifferent first half in which they were lucky to claim the lead, Bromley finished more strongly against off-the-target Wycombe Wanderers to maintain their Isthmian League championship challenge.

For Wycombe, who provided most of the goalmouth thrills, it was a day of frustration with over-eagerness, and erratic marksmanship robbing their lively forwards of repeated chances.

The shrewd passing of skipper Paul Bates and the sharp probing of inside men Trott and Ashby, with sound constructive play by wing-halves Thomas and Beck kept Wycombe constantly in attack in the first half.

Three times Bromley's left-back David Norman stopped the ball on the goal-line to baulk the Wycombe forwards at the last minute.

But Bromley's less frequent counter-attacks revealed uncertainty in the home defence.

The only goal of the half, against the run of play, came when a pass from left-winger Keats deceived the home backs and enabled Alan Viney to score in the 25th minute.

Wycombe equalised from a penalty converted by Bates early in the second half when a brilliant solo run by Rockell, who had moved to centre forward, was checked by a foul in the penalty area.

But Bromley forwards, well marshalled by the widely ranging Paul Sheckles, improved steadily as the game progressed.

Fifteen minutes before the end a neat combined move by the inside trio gave Eric Nottage, the side's 19-year-old leading scorer, the winner.